

Application No.: 10/720,810

Reply to Office Action of July 13, 2005

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in this application:

List of Claims:

- 1 (currently amended): A fire alarm system, comprising:
 - ~~a fire alarm notification appliance;~~
 - a warning detector which detects a warning alert from a source external to the fire system; ~~and, the fire alarm notification appliance~~
 - a controller communicating with the warning detector, the controller further communicating with detectors and notification appliances via a network, at least one of the fire alarm notification appliances providing notification of the warning alert communicated from the controller in response to detection of the warning alert.
- 2 (original): The fire alarm system of claim 1, the fire alarm notification appliance providing notification in response to detection of a change in alert status of the warning alert.
- 3 (original): The fire alarm system of claim 1, the external source being a government agency.
- 4 (original): The fire alarm system of claim 3, the government agency being the U.S. National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA).
- 5 (original): The fire alarm system of claim 4, the warning device being a NOAA weather radio receiver.
- 6 (original): The fire alarm system of claim 4, the warning detector comprising an interface to a NOAA weather radio receiver.

- 7 (original): The fire alarm system of claim 1, the warning detector comprising a radio receiver equipped to receive the warning alert.
- 8 (original): The fire alarm system of claim 1, the warning detector comprising an interface to a radio receiver equipped to receive the warning alert.
- 9 (original): The fire alarm system of claim 8, the interface comprising at least one relay contact.
- 10 (original): The fire alarm system of claim 8, the interface comprising a serial interface.
- 11 (original): The fire alarm system of claim 1, the warning detector receiving warning alerts via at least one of: Internet, telephone, and cellular phone.
- 12 (original): The fire alarm system of claim 1, the fire alarm notification appliance providing notification of the detected warning alert by transmitting a voice message.
- 13 (original): The fire alarm system of claim 1, the fire alarm notification appliance providing notification of the detected warning alert by transmitting a predefined audio pattern.
- 14 (original): The fire alarm system of claim 1, the fire alarm notification appliance providing notification of the detected warning alert by transmitting a predefined flash pattern.
- 15 (original): The fire alarm system of claim 1, the notification appliance providing different notifications for different warning alerts.
16. (original): The fire alarm system of claim 1, further comprising:

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a delay module which provides a delay before transmission of the notification warning.

17. (original): The fire alarm system of claim 1, further comprising:
a verification module which allows confirmation of the validity of the warning alert before transmission of the notification.
18. (original): The fire alarm system of claim 1, further comprising:
a battery backup system.
19. (original): The fire alarm system of claim 1, further comprising:
a visual annunciator comprising plural visual indicators used to indicate a current alert level.
20. (original): The fire alarm system of claim 19, the visual indicators being light emitting diodes.
21. (original): The fire alarm system of claim 19, the visual indicators being color-coded.
22. (original): The fire alarm system of claim 19, the visual annunciator being incorporated into a fire alarm control panel.
23. (original): The fire alarm system of claim 19, the visual annunciator being a stand-alone device in communication with the warning detector.
24. (original): The fire alarm system of claim 19, the visual annunciator being incorporated into the fire alarm notification appliance.
- 25 (currently amended): A method, in a fire alarm system, for providing warnings, the method comprising:
detecting a warning alert from an external source;

communicating the warning alert to a controller, the controller also
communicating with detectors and notification appliances via a network;
communicating the warning alert from the controller to at least one of the
fire alarm notification appliances; and
providing, ~~from a~~ at the at least one fire alarm notification appliance,
notification of the warning alert ~~in response to detection of the warning alert.~~

26. (original): The method of claim 25, further comprising:
providing, from the fire alarm notification appliance, notification in
response to detection of a change in alert status of the warning alert
27. (original): The method of claim 25, the external source being a government agency.
28. (original): The method of claim 27, the government agency being the U.S. National
Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA).
29. (original): The method of claim 28, the warning alert being detected by a NOAA
weather radio receiver interfaced with the fire alarm system.
30. (original): The method of claim 28, the warning alert being detected by a NOAA
weather radio receiver integrated into the fire alarm system.
31. (original): The method of claim 25, the warning alert being detected by a radio
receiver equipped to receive the warning alert, the radio receiver being integrated
into the fire alarm system.
32. (original): The method of claim 25, the warning alert being detected by a radio
receiver equipped to receive the warning alert, the radio receiver interfaced with
the fire alarm system.
33. (original): The method of claim 32, the method further comprising:

signaling detection of the warning alert by actuating at least one relay contact.

34. (original): The method of claim 32, the method further comprising:
signaling detection of the warning alert via a serial interface.
35. (original): The method of claim 25, warning alerts being received via at least one of:
Internet, telephone, and cellular phone.
36. (original): The method of claim 25, the step of providing notification of the detected
warning alert comprising:
transmitting a voice message.
37. (original): The method of claim 25, the step of providing notification of the detected
warning alert comprising:
transmitting a predefined audio pattern.
38. (original): The method of claim 25, the step of providing notification of the detected
warning alert comprising:
transmitting a predefined flash pattern.
39. (original): The method of claim 25, further comprising:
providing different notifications for different warning alerts.
40. (original): The method of claim 25, further comprising:
delaying transmission of the notification warning.
41. (original): The method of claim 25, further comprising:
providing means for confirmation of the validity of the warning alert
before transmission of the notification.

42. (original): The method of claim 25, further comprising:
indicating, in a visual annunciator with plural visual indicators, a current alert level.
43. (original): The method of claim 42, the visual indicators being light emitting diodes.
44. (original): The method of claim 42, the visual indicators being color-coded.
45. (original): The method of claim 42, the visual annunciator being incorporated into a fire alarm control panel.
46. (original): The method of claim 42, the visual annunciator being a stand-alone device in communication with the warning detector.
47. (original): The method of claim 42, the visual annunciator being incorporated into the fire alarm notification appliance.
- 48 (currently amended): A fire alarm system comprising:
warning detection means for detecting a warning alert from an external source; and
notification means for providing, ~~from a fire alarm notification appliance,~~ notification of the warning alert in response to detection of the warning alert; and
controller means receiving the warning alert from the warning detection means and further communicating the warning alert to the notification means via a network.
49. (original): The fire alarm system of claim 48, further comprising:
means for providing, from the fire alarm notification appliance, notification in response to detection of a change in alert status of the warning alert
50. (original): A fire alarm system, comprising:

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a system controller

a plurality of fire alarm notification appliances in communication with the system controller;

a warning detector in communication with the system controller, the warning detector detecting a warning alert from an external source; and

a visual annunciator comprising plural color-coded indicators, the visual annunciator being in communication with the warning detector and indicating a current alert level in response to a detected change in alert status.

51. (original): The fire alarm system of claim 50, the color-coded indicators being light emitting diodes.

52. (original): The fire alarm system of claim 50, the visual annunciator being incorporated into any of: the system controller; and at least one of the fire alarm notification appliances.

53. (original): The fire alarm system of claim 50, the visual annunciator being a stand-alone device in communication with the warning detector.

54 (new): A fire alarm system, comprising:

a fire alarm notification appliance;

a warning detector which detects a security/terrorist warning alert from a source external to the fire system, the fire alarm notification appliance providing notification of the warning alert in response to detection of the warning alert.

55 (new): The fire alarm system of claim 1, wherein the warning detector detects security/terrorist warning alerts from the external source.

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